

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-08

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TAGS: EAGR ETRD JA

SUBJ: AGRIC AND FORESTRY MINISTER ABE'S VISIT TO U.S.

REFS: A) STOKYO 9533; B) TOKYO 7095

DEPAT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR HUME

1. FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS ARE SUBMITTED BY THE EMBASSY FOR CON-
SIDERATION AS SUBJECTS THAT MIGHT APPROPRIATELY BE BROUGHT UP BY
SEC. BUTZ DURING HIS AUG. 12 MEETINGS WITH MIN ABE.

A. RELIABILITY OF U.S. AS JAPAN'S MAJOR SUPPLY SOURCE FOR GRAINS,
SOYBEANS AND OTHER BULK AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

B. U.S. PRODUCERS DEPEND HEAVILY ON JAPAN'S PURCHASES OF GRAINS,
SOYBEANS, COTTON, TOBACCO, LEMONS, GRAPEFRUIT, TALLOW, HIDES AND
SKINS, ETC. WITHOUT JAPAN'S STABLE AND INCREASING PURCHASES OF THESE
AND OTHER SUCH ITEMS U.S. PRODUCERS' INCENTIVE TO PRODUCE WOULD
ALMOST CERTAINLY BE REDUCED SHARPLY.

C. ALTHOUGH THE ISSUES OF OPP AND TBZ (FUNGICIDES) ON
FRESH CITRUS, SO2 (PRESERVATIVE) IN DEHYDRATED POTATOES AND CERTI-
FICATION OF TALLOW FALL MAINLY UNDER THE PURVIEW OF MHW, ALL THREE
ISSUES INVOLVE FOOD AND THEREFORE CONCERN MAF. MAF COOPERATION
THESE MATTERS SHOULD BE CONFIRMED.

D. THE U.S. HAS INCREASINGLY STRONG INTEREST IN MAF'S EXPEDI-
TION OF THE PROPOSED U.S.-JAPAN ORANGE JUICE BARTER PROGRAM, AND
THE OPENING OF THE JAPANESE MARKET FOR FRESH U.S. SWEET CHERRIES.

E. ALTHOUGH SUBSTANTIVE TALKS ON TRAIFFS AND QUOTA'S MAY MORE
APPROPRIATELY BE HANDLED IN MTN, MINISTER ABE SHOULD BE REMINDED OF
CONTINUING U.S. INTEREST IN LARGER QUOTAS AND EVENTUAL LIBERALI-

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ZATION OF SUCH THINGS AS BEEF, FRESH ORANGES, ORANGE AND OTHER
FRUIT JUICES, CANNED PINEAPPLE, CERTAIN TOMATO PRODUCTS, PEANUTS,
PULSES AND MAPLE SYRUP; AND IN TARIFF REDUCTIONS ON SUCH ITEMS
AS FRESH CITRUS (SEASONAL DUTY OF GRAPEFRUIT AND ORANGES), FRUIT

JUICES, PEANUT BUTTER, PINEAPPLE PRODUCTS, COOKED TURKEY ROLLS AND ROASTS, FRESH GRAPES, BOTTLED WINE, ETC. MINISTER ABE SHOULD ALSO BE CAUTIONED AGAINST ANY PLANS TO IMPOSE A DUTY AND/OR CONSUMER TAX ON SOYBEANS AND/OR SOYBEAN PRODUCTS.

F. LUMBER: THERE IS A 10 PERCENT DUTY ON 10 SPECIES OF WESTERN LUMBER, BUT LOGS ARE DUTY FREE. NON-TARIFF BARRIERS RELATED TO NEW JAPANESE BUILDING CODES ALLOWING WESTERN-STYLE FRAME CONSTRUCTION: (SEE PARAS. 2-3 REF. B)

(1) JAPAN ENFORCES HIGHER STANDARDS FOR KNOT SIZES, WANE, ETC. THAN DOES THE U.S. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE STANDARDS ARE JUSTIFIED BY ENGINEERING REQUIREMENTS BUT THEY DO NECESSITATE ADDITIONAL COSTLY GRADE SEGREGATIONS FOR SHIPMENTS TO JAPAN.

(2) JAPAN REQUIRES EACH PIECE OF LUMBER TO BE LABELED IN JAPANESE, DESPITE ADEQUATE LABELING WHICH IS ALREADY DONE IN THE U.S.

(3) JAPAN REQUIRES LUMBER TO BE INSPECTED FOR QUALITY IN JAPAN. THIS REQUIREMENT, WHICH IS PERHAPS THE MOST ONEROUS, COULD BE ELIMINATED IF JAPAN WOULD ACCEPT U.S. INSPECTION WHICH TAKES PLACE BEFORE SHIPMENT.

2. FYI: YAMADA, DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DEPT., MAF, HAS RETIRED TO BECOME SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE MINISTER ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. YAMADA WILL STILL ACCOMPANY MIN. ABE ON THIS TRIP.

3. MRS. ABE WILL ALSO ACCOMPANY THE MINISTER. MAF HAS CONTACTED AGATT OFFICE EXPRESSING MRS. ABE'S DESIRE TO VISIT A SUPERMARKET WHILE IN WASHINGTON AREA.
HODGSON

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